

## **March 14, 2011 – Board Report**

### **PVAAS**

Two meetings ago, I provided you with information about the public release of PVAAS scores. This evening I have provided you with copies of those public documents from the PVAAS site. You probably also remember seeing them in the Daily Item, however, the reports I am giving you are directly from the PVAAS site.

Go to PVAAS handout for notes...

Please remember that PVAAS scores are calculated using only PSSA scores. I have also provided you with a chart of SAT scores that demonstrates a similar decline.

We know we have some work to do at the high school, which is what we have been focusing on. It is important for us to continue to focus our efforts and move forward creating the kind of school we know Midd-West High School can become.

### **HIGH SCHOOL WORK**

To summarize this work, Cynthia and I have put together a document for you to review. The summary is organized around Robert Marzano's work. Marzano has many analyses of educational research on effective school practice about what works in schools. There is a brief explanation on the front sheet, which also shows how the work is categorized into school-level factors, teacher-level factors, and student-level factors.

At the bottom of the front sheet you will see the goals of the high school. These goals were outlined in collaboration with the faculty at the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year.

When you turn to the other pages you will see each school year referenced on the left to include the measure or change, followed by the category in which each item belongs. You are welcome to ask questions about individual items. As you can see on the last page, we are clearly looking ahead to next year to continue our efforts for improvement.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

One piece of the plan is to increase the number of credits required for graduation...

When we researched all SUN-Tech ascending schools we discovered that we were next to last in terms of credits required for graduation.

With your approval we would like to increase required credits from 25 to 27. We can do this with a few small adjustments that will greatly benefit our students. Those adjustments are:

- Increase Algebra I from 1.0 credit to 1.5
- Increase Algebra II from 1.0 credit to 1.5
- Increase Chemistry credit from 1.0 to 1.5
- Increase Biology credit from 1.0 to 1.5

This increases the number of credits required in math and science from 3.0 to 4.0. Each of the above courses also include a Keystone testing requirement, which means students will need to demonstrate proficiency in the course as measured by the Keystone exam. In addition, adding the extra credits and time provides for much needed lab time so that students are provided more opportunity to have a hands-on learning experience.

We essentially have two options for students both that are labeled college and career ready, which is what all of our students need to be. The difference being that one option may include SUN-Tech. Regardless of that choice, all students can complete their required number of credits in plenty of time to attend SUN-Tech if that is their desire.

You will also see some shifting in course alignment as we look through this sheet and the course guide. Those shifts include the sequence of science and social studies courses. Prior to last year course alignment for science was Biology in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Chemistry in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and Physics in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. We changed that to be a physics focused General Science in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Chemistry in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and Biology in 11<sup>th</sup> grade primarily due to the difficulty level of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology course, and because this helps us to sequence Keystone exams across a student's high school experience rather than lumping them all together in one year.

The other sequence we have rearranged is social studies. Previously, American Government was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by World History in 10<sup>th</sup> and American History in 11<sup>th</sup>. The new shift provides students with American History in 9<sup>th</sup>, which is coming off of American History in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by World in 10<sup>th</sup> and American Government in 11<sup>th</sup>.

Course selection guide:

Most notable changes in the course selection guide include a shift from 1.0 credit electives to .5 credit electives. This gives students more choices because there is greater flexibility in their schedule. We have eliminated the low track courses, and we have eliminated courses with low enrollment.

## **Full Day Kindergarten**

Recognize kindergarten teachers in the room. This report is in response to questions posed by the board regarding logistically how we could make full day kindergarten work in the district.

**SAS**

**VLN**

**Drug & Alcohol Meeting**